



Township of Monroe

County of Middlesex

Stephen Dalina
Mayor

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
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July 14, 2021

By Electronic Mail and First-Class Mail
The Hon. Judith M. Persichilli, R.N., B.S.N., M.A
Commissioner
New Jersey Department of Health
55 North Willow St
Trenton, NJ 08608

Re: Landfill Superfund Site in Monroe Township ("Landfill"), Block 148, Lot 37, EPA ID# NJD980505671

Commissioner Persichilli,

I am writing to seek your Department's attention to a matter of great concern to me and all residents of Monroe Township. The Township needs to discover, with your assistance, if the Landfill referenced above poses any health risks for nearby residents.

The Landfill is closed and regulated by the NJDEP and the EPA. In August/September 2020, certain chemical odors had emanated into a residential neighborhood though the plumbing and sanitary sewer manholes adjacent to the Landfill. For several decades prior to this incident, the Landfill operator, BFI/Republic Services, discharged the Landfill's leachate into the Township's sanitary sewer collection system, which runs through the adjacent residential neighborhood. At the Township's urging, the NJDEP and EPA instructed BFI/Republic to cease discharging leachate through the Township sanitary sewer system pending an investigation into the odors. Since late September 2020, BFI/Republic has been storing leachate in temporary above ground tanks, loading leachate into tanker trucks, and hauling that leachate off-site. The Township is moving forward to construct a dedicated force main pipe to remove leachate from the site moving forward.

Residents of the adjacent residential neighborhood continue to experience odors and are understandably concerned for their families' health and safety. The NJDEP recently conducted an air quality test at a residence near the Landfill, and apparently found the presence of certain chemical compounds in the ambient air that are of concern. The Township also hired its own independent environmental expert to examine all aspects of the Landfill's operation and all impacts on the surrounding community.

It is imperative that your Department conduct an environmental health assessment in the residential neighborhood adjacent to the Landfill Site. The Department of Health conducted previous assessments in 1989 and 1993 that should be reviewed and updated. The Township will assist in any way we can. I look forward to speaking with you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Dalina', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stephen Dalina
Mayor, Township of Monroe, Middlesex County

CC. Governor Phil Murphy
The Hon. Shawn LaTourette, Commissioner, NJDEP
14th Legislative District Representatives
Middlesex County Board of County Commissioners
Middlesex County Environmental Health Division
Monroe Township Council
Lou Rainone, Monroe Township Attorney